

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their affiliates to air an attack piece against a presidential candidate days before the election is a gross dereliction of their duty to serve the public interest. The public grants media companies the right to use the public airwaves for their profit with the stipulation, by law, that in doing so they serve the public interest. A biased propaganda piece, produced by the discredited Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and with significant ties to the Bush campaign, masquerading as "news" and running days before the presidential election is a blatant attempt to influence the election. It is serving not the public interest but rather the personal ideologies of Sinclair's owners.

This situation is exactly what the now-repealed media consolidation laws were enacted to prevent. It is of the utmost importance that media ownership regulations are strengthened, and that broadcasters are compelled to use the public resources from which they are profiting responsibly, fairly, and in the interest of the public they serve. Broadcasters that fail to honor their legal mandate to serve the public trust should not be granted renewals of their licenses.

Thank you for your time.

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